Acquition of land in cantonment

3126. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the archaic provisions of Governor General's order number 179 dated the 12th September, 1836 are still in vogue and the compensation according to this out of date, ancient and unjust law is paid to those living in Cantonment areas of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the compensation so assessed is so ridiculously low that large bungalows with large campuses are acquired for a few hundred rupees;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any law in this regard which would be just and proper;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether the aforesaid provision been challenged in any court of law and if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) The GGO No. 179 dated 12th September, 1836 is still in vogue for resuming bungalows held on old grant terms in Cantonments. As per these terms the Government is the owner of the land and the structures standing thereon only belong to the occupancy holders. The GGO, therefore, provides for payment for compensation only in respect of authorised structures existing on the land at the time of resumption. No payment is paid for land as it belongs to the Government.

The compensation payable is, therefore, dependent on the condition of the buildings. The compensation is assessed on the basis of norms laid down for this purpose.

The Government is examining the procedure relating to payment of compensation for authorised structures in order to provide an opportunity to the resumptee owners to represent his case on the quantum of compensation payable before issue of resumption notice. The present procedure which provides for arbitration after the compensation is assessed does not provide for any such opportunity prior to issuing resumption notice.

The GGO No. 179 of 1836 has been challenged in a number of court cases filed against resumption of property. Most of the High Courts have held it to be valid.

Appointment of joint secretaries

3127. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date when the letter issued by the Government of India inviting a list for nominations for the posts of Joint Secretary at the Centre from amongst the officers of State Cadres for the current year;

(b) whether any letter has been issued in regard to Central Services Officers?

(c) what are the eligibility conditions for Central Services Officers for appointment as Joint Secretaries; and

(d) whether there is any difference in the eligibility condition for the officers in the State Cadres and those of Central Services, if so, what is the difference and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 31st December, 1987.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A minimum length of 17 years of service is necessary for consideration for empanelment as Joint Secretary in respect of officers belonging to All India/Central Organised Group 'A' Services. However, pay scales are also taken into account for determining the eligibility of Group 'A' Central Services Officers, with the object of keeping